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DP

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/087,623	05/29/98	LAZARIDIS	M 555255012073
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EXAMINER

EDELMAN, B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2757

13

DATE MAILED:

07/06/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/087,623

Applicant(s)
Lazaridis et al.

Examiner
Bradley Edelman

Group Art Unit
2757

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 15, 2000

☒ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-16, 19-26, and 51-57 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-16, 19-26, and 51-57 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☒ The proposed drawing correction, filed on May 15, 2000 is ☒ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7, 8, 9

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-2, 4, 11, 13, 19-20, 51, and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Macko (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,563).

In considering claim 1, Macko discloses a method of redirecting data items from a host system (130) to a mobile communication device (100) comprising the steps of:

configuring one or more redirection events at the host system (col. 8, lines 61-63);

detecting that a redirection event ("scheduled appointment") has occurred at the host system and generating a redirection trigger, and in response to the trigger, continuously redirecting the data items from the host system to the mobile data communication device (col. 8, line 67 - col. 9, line 4).

In considering claim 2, Macko further discloses selecting at least one type of data item ("e-mail") to redirect from the host system to the mobile device (col. 9, line 3).

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In considering claim 4, Macko further discloses providing information regarding the configuration of the mobile data communication device (col. 8, lines 64-65).

In considering claim 11, Macko further discloses the redirection event including external events, internal events ("appointment"), or networked events (col. 8, lines 53-56).

In considering claim 13, Macko further discloses the internal event being a calendar alarm (col. 8, line 28, "appointment").

In considering claim 19, Macko further discloses the mobile device being a pager (col. 1, lines 13-15; col. 2, lines 5-7).

In considering claim 20, Macko further discloses the mobile device equipped to receive both voice and non-voice data messages (col. 2, lines 13-15).

In considering claim 51, Macko discloses a method of forwarding E-mail from a user's E-mail account at a host system (130) to a mobile data communication device (100) via a wireless network (110), comprising the steps of:

receiving E-mails at the user's E-mail account at the host system (col. 9, line 3);

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providing an E-mail forwarding program in communication with the E-mail account (col. 8, lines 62-63);

configuring the E-mail forwarding program to forward received E-mails to the mobile data communication device when a redirection trigger ("appointment") is detected (col. 8, lines 62-63);

generating the redirection trigger in response to an event at the host system, and in response to the redirection trigger, continuously forwarding the received E-mails at the user's E-mail account to the mobile data communication device via the wireless network (col. 8, line 67 - col. 9, line 4).

In considering claim 54, Macko discloses a method of redirecting electronic data items from a host system operated by a user ("PC 130") to the user's mobile data communication device (100), comprising the steps of:

sensing that the user is not in close proximity to the host system (i.e. the user has an appointment, and thus leaves the vicinity of the host system - col. 8, lines 28-34);

receiving electronic data messages at the host system (col. 9, line 3); and

continuously redirecting the received data items from the host system to the user's mobile data communication device until the user is in close proximity to the host system (i.e. the system forwards messages for the "duration of the appointment", at which point the user re-enters the vicinity of the host system - col. 8, lines 61-63).

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3. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 11-13, 16, and 51-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sharp Kabushiki Kaisha (EP Patent No. 0 772 327 A2, hereinafter “Sharp”).

In considering claim 1, Sharp discloses a method of redirecting data items from a host system (100) to a mobile communication device (200) comprising the steps of:

configuring one or more redirection events at the host system (col. 4, lines 50-54);

detecting that a redirection event (“time and time interval”) has occurred at the host system and generating a redirection trigger, and in response to the trigger, continuously redirecting the data items from the host system to the mobile data communication device (col. 6, lines 25-42).

In considering claim 2, Sharp further discloses selecting at least one type of data item (i.e. e-mail sent from a specific sender) to redirect from the host system to the mobile device (col. 17, lines 11-15).

In considering claim 4, Sharp further discloses providing information regarding the configuration of the mobile data communication device (col. 11, lines 1-2).

In considering claim 5, Sharp further discloses the configuration information including the address of the mobile data communication device (col. 11, lines 1-2).

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In considering claim 6, Sharp further discloses the configuration information including the type of mobile data communication device (col. 10, lines 39-42).

In considering claim 11, Sharp further discloses the redirection event including external events (“forwarding request signal”), internal events (“time and time interval”), or networked events (col. 14, lines 12-16, 39-49).

In considering claim 12, Sharp further discloses the external event being a message from the mobile communications device to start redirection (col. 6, lines 22-30).

In considering claim 13, Sharp further discloses the internal event being a calendar alarm (“appointment designation”, col. 8, lines 3-6).

In considering claim 16, Sharp further discloses the networked event including messages to begin redirection from computer systems connected to the host system via a network (col. 6, lines 22-30, wherein the “computer system connected to the host system via a network” is the wireless communication terminal (100) connected to the host system (200) via a wireless network (300)).

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In considering claim 51, Sharp discloses a method of forwarding E-mail from a user's E-mail account at a host system (200) to a mobile data communication device (100) via a wireless network (300), comprising the steps of:

- receiving E-mails at the user's E-mail account at the host system (col. 6, lines 29-30);
- providing an E-mail forwarding program in communication with the E-mail account (col. 6, lines 26-28);
- configuring the E-mail forwarding program to forward received E-mails to the mobile data communication device when a redirection trigger is detected (col. 6, lines 24-26);
- generating the redirection trigger in response to an event ("appointment", col. 8, lines 3-6) at the host system, and in response to the redirection trigger, continuously forwarding the received E-mails at the user's E-mail account to the mobile data communication device via the wireless network (col. 6, lines 22-30).

In considering claim 52, Sharp discloses a method of forwarding data messages from a host system (200) to a mobile data communication device (100), comprising the steps of:

- receiving data messages at the host system (col. 6, lines 29-30);
- configuring a first triggering event ("appointment") at the host system (col. 8, lines 3-6);
- configuring a plurality of forwarding rules at the host system (col. 17, lines 9-23);
- detecting the first triggering event at the host system and generating and detecting a first trigger ("time designation", col. 14, lines 45-49); and

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continuously forwarding received data messages that meet the forwarding rules to the mobile data communication device until a second triggering event (i.e. the end of the time interval) is detected at the host system (col. 14, lines 39-42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 8 and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macko in view of Owens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,700, hereinafter "Owens"), and further in view of Pepe et al. (PCT Publication No. WO 97/33421, hereinafter "Pepe").

In considering claim 8, although the system taught by Macko teaches substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to explicitly disclose the steps of:

receiving a data item at the host system, wherein the data item is addressed using a sender address and a receiver address;

packaging the data item into an electronic envelope addressed using a host address and a mobile device address and redirecting the electronic envelope from the host system to the mobile data communication device; and

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extracting the data item from the electronic envelope and displaying the data item at the mobile data communication device using the sender address and the receiver address.

Nonetheless, in an electronic message forwarding system, these steps are well known, as evidenced by Owens. In a similar art, Owens discloses a system for forwarding messages received at a host system ("electronic mail service") to a telecommunications service (col. 5, lines 47-51), including the steps of:

receiving a data item at the host system, wherein the data item is addressed using a sender address and a receiver address (col. 6, lines 24-27);

packaging the data item into an electronic envelope addressed using a host address and a telecommunications service address and redirecting the electronic envelope from the host system to the telecommunications service (col. 6, lines 19-22); and

extracting the data item from the electronic envelope and displaying the data item at a data communication device ("message receiver") using the sender address and the receiver address (col. 6, lines 23-30, 45-57).

Given the teaching of Owens, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of wrapping the forwarded message in the system taught by Macko, in an envelope, as taught by Owens, to allow electronic messages to be forwarded between different types of services using different protocols (see Owens, col. 6, lines 45-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the steps of wrapping and unwrapping, as taught by Owens, in the message forwarding system taught by Macko.

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In further considering claim 8, although the combined teaching of Macko and Owens discloses substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose determining whether the receiver address is associated with the mobile data communication device, and performing the steps of wrapping and extracting the message if the receiver address is associated with the mobile data communication device. Nonetheless, it is well known for a message forwarding system to perform some sort of validation or verification before forwarding messages, as described by Owens (col. 5, lines 53-66). Owens describes checking “information or instructions stored in a profile” before deciding whether or not to forward the message to the telecommunications service.

Although Owens does not disclose “determining whether the receiver address is associated with the mobile data communication device” as the method of verification, this method is well known, as evidenced by Pepe. In a similar art, Pepe discloses a system for forwarding messages from a host system (Fig. 4, “PCI Server 48”) to a mobile data communication device (Fig. 4, “PDA 30”), wherein the host system checks the subscriber’s service profile, which contains routing information associating the receiver address (“201-555-5555 @ pci.net”) with the mobile data communication device (p. 35, lines 20-31), before forwarding the message to the appropriate location. Thus given the teaching of Pepe, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of checking information stored in a profile before forwarding a message, as disclosed in the combined teaching of Macko and Owens, wherein the information includes information associating the receiver address with the mobile data

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communication device, as taught by Pepe, to make sure that the correct device will receive the forwarded message. Therefore, it would have been obvious to include information associating the receiver address with the data communication device, as taught by Pepe, in the message forwarding system taught by Macko and Owens.

In considering claim 53, Macko discloses a method of redirecting electronic messages from a host system (130) to a mobile communication device (100). However, the system taught by Macko fails to explicitly disclose the steps of:

receiving an electronic message at the host system, wherein the electronic message is addressed using a sender address and a receiver address;

packaging the electronic message into an electronic envelope addressed using a host address and a mobile device address and redirecting the electronic envelope from the host system to the mobile data communication device; and

extracting the data item from the electronic envelope and displaying the data item at the mobile data communication device using the sender address and the receiver address.

Nonetheless, in an electronic message forwarding system, these steps are well known, as evidenced by Owens. In a similar art, Owens discloses a system for forwarding messages received at a host system ("electronic mail service") to a telecommunications service (col. 5, lines 47-51), including the steps of:

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receiving a data item at the host system, wherein the data item is addressed using a sender address and a receiver address (col. 6, lines 24-27);

packaging the data item into an electronic envelope addressed using a host address and a telecommunications service address and redirecting the electronic envelope from the host system to the telecommunications service (col. 6, lines 19-22); and

extracting the data item from the electronic envelope and displaying the data item at a data communication device ("message receiver") using the sender address and the receiver address (col. 6, lines 23-30, 45-57).

Given the teaching of Owens, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of wrapping the forwarded message in the system taught by Macko, in an envelope, as taught by Owens, to allow electronic messages to be forwarded between different types of services or machines using different protocols (see Owens, col. 6, lines 45-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the steps of wrapping and unwrapping, as taught by Owens, in the message forwarding system taught by Macko.

In further considering claim 8, although the combined teaching of Macko and Owens discloses substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose determining whether the receiver address is associated with the mobile data communication device, and performing the steps of wrapping and extracting the message if the receiver address is associated with the mobile data communication device. Nonetheless, it is well known for a message forwarding system to perform some sort of validation or verification before forwarding messages, as described by

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Owens (col. 5, lines 53-66). Owens describes checking “information or instructions stored in a profile” before deciding whether or not to forward the message to the telecommunications service.

Although Owens does not disclose “determining whether the receiver address is associated with the mobile data communication device” as the method of verification, this method is well known, as evidenced by Pepe. In a similar art, Pepe discloses a system for forwarding messages from a host system (Fig. 4, “PCI Server 48”) to a mobile data communication device (Fig. 4, “PDA 30”), wherein the host system checks the subscriber’s service profile, which contains routing information associating the receiver address (“201-555-5555 @ pci.net”) with the mobile data communication device (p. 35, lines 20-31), before forwarding the message to the appropriate location. Thus given the teaching of Pepe, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of checking information stored in a profile before forwarding a message, as disclosed in the combined teaching of Macko and Owens, wherein the information includes information associating the receiver address with the mobile data communication device, as taught by Pepe, to make sure that the correct device will receive the forwarded message. Therefore, it would have been obvious to include information associating the receiver address with the data communication device, as taught by Pepe, in the message forwarding system taught by Macko and Owens.

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6. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp, in view of Kramer ("Wireless E-mail services gain Windows clients; RadioMail, Wynd client products improve on their DOS forebears.", PC Week, April 17, 1995, hereinafter "WyndMail").

In considering claim 7, although the system taught by Sharp teaches substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to explicitly disclose configuration information including the types of data item attachments that the mobile data communication device can receive and process. Nonetheless, indicating the types of data item attachments that a mobile data communication device can receive and process is well known, as evidenced by WyndMail. In a similar art, WyndMail discloses an e-mail forwarding system for forwarding messages to a mobile user, wherein it is determined whether messages of a specific type (i.e. binary) can be received and processed at a mobile data communication device (p. 1, last paragraph). Given the teaching of WyndMail, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of including a means for determining whether specific types of attachments can be received and processed, as disclosed by WyndMail, in the message forwarding system taught by Sharp, so that important attachments that cannot be viewed at a mobile data communication device can still be viewed by the user of the device. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine the attachment forwarding steps taught by WyndMail in the e-mail forwarding system taught by Sharp.

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In considering claim 9, WyndMail further discloses for each data item to be redirected, determining whether the data item includes an attachment, and determining the type of attachment (“binary”, p. 1, last paragraph),

determining whether the mobile data communication device can receive and process the attachments (i.e. if the binary attachment is not “too lengthy” for the mobile user, p. 1, last paragraph); and

if so, then redirecting the attachments to the mobile data communication device (if it is not too lengthy), and if not, then redirecting the attachments to an external machine that is compatible with the attachment (“user’s desktop mail system”, p. 1, last paragraph).

Although the description by WyndMail does not explicitly state each step of the process above, these steps of the process are inherent in the system taught by WyndMail. For instance, the steps of “determining whether a data item has an attachment”, and “determining the type of attachment” must occur since an attachment of a specific type must be recognized before it can be processed or redirected. Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the attachment forwarding system taught by WyndMail in the e-mail forwarding system taught by Sharp so that important attachments that cannot be viewed at a mobile data communication device can still be viewed by the user of the device.

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7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp, in view of WyndMail, and further in view of Arnum ("The Universal Mailbox Arrives... sort of", Business Communications Review, v26, n5, May 1996).

In considering claim 10, although the system taught by Sharp and WyndMail teaches substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose that the attachment can be a sound file. Nonetheless, including sound files as attachments to electronic messages is well known, as evidenced by Arnum. In a similar art, Arnum discloses an e-mail system wherein files, including sound files, can be attached to e-mail messages (page 3, paragraph 2). Thus given the teaching of Arnum, it would have been an obvious design choice to include sound files, as taught by Arnum, as attachments in the e-mail forwarding system taught by Sharp and WyndMail.

8. Claims 14 and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp in view of Farber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,284, hereinafter "Farber").

In considering claim 14, although the system taught by Sharp discloses substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose the internal event being a screen saver activation. Nonetheless, the use of a screen saver activation for sending and receiving data items over a network is well known, as evidenced by Farber. The invention described by Farber is a similar art to the invention described by Sharp because both involve sending messages to a mobile communication device in response to a trigger event. In the case of Farber, the messages can be sports, weather, or traffic information, the mobile communication device can be a PDA, and the

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trigger event is the activation of a screen saver (col. 2, lines 39-56). Farber thus discloses sending messages from a personal computer upon activation of a screen saver program (col. 1, lines 47-53, wherein the message is a user id and password), and sending messages to a mobile communication device (i.e. PDA) upon activation of a screen saver program (col. 2, lines 39-56, wherein the message is personalized user information such as sports, weather, or traffic information). Thus, given the teaching of Farber, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of employing the screen saver activated message sending system disclosed by Farber to activate the message forwarding function disclosed by Sharp (i.e. instead of appointment/time interval activation), in order to make better use of the host computer when it is inactive (see Farber, col. 1, lines 21-25), thus saving processing capability and network bandwidth when the computer later becomes active.

In considering claim 56, Sharp discloses a method of redirecting data items from a desktop computer system (200) to a mobile data communication device (100), comprising the steps of:

providing a redirection program at the desktop system (col. 9, lines 6-9);

configuring the redirection program to detect that a time-dependent signal has been activated (col. 14, lines 39-49); and

continuously redirecting data items from the desktop computer system to the mobile data communication device until the time-dependent signal is deactivated (col. 14, lines 39-49).

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However, Sharp fails to disclose the time-dependent signal being a screen saver program, and providing the screen saver program to the desktop system. Nonetheless, the use of a screen saver activation for sending and receiving message over a network is well known, as evidenced by Farber. The invention described by Farber is a similar art to the invention described by Sharp because both involve sending messages to a mobile communication device in response to a trigger event. In the case of Farber, the messages can be sports, weather, or traffic information, the mobile communication device can be a PDA, and the trigger event is the activation of a screen saver (col. 2, lines 39-56). Farber thus discloses sending messages from a personal computer upon activation of a screen saver program (col. 1, lines 47-53, wherein the message is a user id and password), and sending messages to a mobile communication device (i.e. PDA) upon activation of a screen saver program (col. 2, lines 39-56, wherein the message is personalized user information such as sports, weather, or traffic information). Thus, given the teaching of Farber, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of employing the screen saver activated message sending system disclosed by Farber to activate the message forwarding function disclosed by Sharp (i.e. instead of appointment/time interval activation), in order to make better use of the host computer when it is inactive (see Farber, col. 1, lines 21-25), thus saving processing capability and network bandwidth when the computer later becomes active.

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9. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp and Farber, in view of Yamamoto et al. (JP Patent No. JP409305155A, hereinafter "Yamamoto").

In considering claim 15, although the system disclosed in the combined teaching of Sharp and Farber does not explicitly mention a keyboard timeout signal, it is well known that screen saver activation can occur upon keyboard timeout, as evidenced by Yamamoto. The invention disclosed by Yamamoto and the invention disclosed by the combined teaching of Sharp and Farber pertain to similar art because they both include activation of a screen saver. Yamamoto further discloses that a screen saver can be activated by a keyboard time-out signal (see Derwent Account - "ABTX"). Therefore, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the option of using a keyboard time-out signal to activate a screen saver, as disclosed by Yamamoto, which then activates the e-mail forwarding system disclosed by Sharp (as discussed previously). This activation option would have been an obvious design choice to a person having ordinary skill in the art.

10. Claims 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp, in view of Foladare et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,837, hereinafter "Foladare").

In considering claim 21, Sharp discloses the host system including a means for limiting the redirection step to redirecting only those data items that are transmitted to the host system from a preferred sender (col. 17, lines 11-15). However, Sharp fails to disclose including a *list* of preferred senders whose messages should be forwarded. Nonetheless, the inclusion of a preferred

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list of senders whose messages should be forwarded in a message forwarding system is well known, as evidenced by Foladare. In a similar art, Foladare describes a system for forwarding e-mail from a host ("E-mail server") to an external device (col. 3, lines 20-25), wherein messages can be selectively forwarded according to a list of preferred senders (col. 3, line 64 - col. 4, line 8). Given the teaching of Foladare, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of including a *list* of preferred senders, as taught by Foladare, in addition to the single preferred sender disclosed by Sharp, so that the user of the mobile device can choose to forward messages from specific important groups of people, such as family, friends, or business colleagues. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the e-mail forwarding system taught by Sharp with the preferred list taught by Foladare.

In considering claim 22, Sharp further discloses the ability of the user to add and subtract the preferred sender (col. 12, lines 44-47, wherein "changing the forwarding condition" implies adding or removing the address of the preferred sender). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include this ability for the list disclosed by the combined teaching of Sharp and Foladare, so that the user can change his/her group preferences in case one of his/her colleagues changes e-mail addresses.

In considering claim 23, Sharp further discloses activating and deactivating the condition of the preferred sender at the host system (col. 6, line 48 - col. 7, line 20; col. 12, lines 44-47,

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wherein “changing the forwarding condition” implies activating or deactivation the condition). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include this ability for the list disclosed by the combined teaching of Sharp and Foladare, so that the user can change his/her group preferences in case one of his/her colleagues changes e-mail addresses.

In considering claim 24, Sharp further discloses activating and deactivating the condition of the preferred sender by a command message transmitted from the mobile data communication device to the host system (col. 12, lines 44-47). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include this ability for the list disclosed by the combined teaching of Sharp and Foladare, so that the user can change his/her group preferences in case one of his/her colleagues changes e-mail addresses.

In considering claim 25, Sharp further discloses the ability of the user to add or subtract the preferred sender by configuring the host system (col. 6, line 48- col. 7, line 20; col. 12, lines 44-47, wherein “changing the forwarding condition” implies adding or subtracting the preferred sender). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include this ability for the list disclosed by the combined teaching of Sharp and Foladare, so that the user can change his/her group preferences in case one of his/her colleagues changes e-mail addresses.

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In considering claim 26, Sharp further discloses the ability of the user to add or subtract the preferred sender by transmitting a command message from the mobile data communication device to the host system (col. 12, lines 44-47, wherein "changing the forwarding condition" implies adding or subtracting the address of the preferred sender). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include this ability for the list disclosed by the combined teaching of Sharp and Foladare, so that the user can change his/her group preferences in case one of his/her colleagues changes e-mail addresses.

11. Claim 55 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp in view of Spooner ("3Com PalmPilot Gets Wireless Link for E-Mail", PC Week, December 8, 1997).

In considering claim 55, Sharp discloses a method of redirecting E-mail messages from a user's personal computer (200) to the user's mobile data communication device (100) via a wireless communication network (300), comprising the steps of:

providing a redirection program operating at the user's personal computer (col. 9, lines 6-9);

configuring the redirection program to detect one or more user-defined events at the user's personal computer (col. 8, lines 22-30);

detecting the one or more user-defined events using the redirection program (col. 14, lines 39-49);

receiving E-mail messages at the user's personal computer (col. 6, lines 29-30); and

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continuously redirecting the received E-mail messages from the user's personal computer to the user's mobile data communication device via the wireless communication network (col. 6, lines 22-30).

However, Sharp fails to disclose receiving and redirecting updated organizer information in addition to E-mail messages. Nonetheless, forwarding organizer information along with electronic messages to a mobile communication device is well known, as evidenced by Spooner. In a similar art, Spooner discloses a message forwarding system wherein messages are forwarded from a host system ("proxy server") to a mobile communication device ("PalmPilot"), and wherein those messages include organizer information ("contacts and scheduling information"). Given the teaching of Spooner, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of forwarding updated organizer information, as disclosed by Spooner, along with E-mail messages in the message forwarding system taught by Sharp so that users away from home can be notified of important new meetings proposed over the network. Therefore, it would have been obvious to include forwarding of organizer information, as taught by Spooner, in the message forwarding system taught by Sharp.

12. Claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp in view of Woltz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,597, hereinafter "Woltz").

In considering claim 57, Sharp discloses a method of redirecting data items from an e-mail storage/retrieval system to a mobile data communication device, comprising the steps of:

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providing a desktop system in communication with the e-mail storage/retrieval system (col. 8, lines 32-43);

configuring the desktop system to detect a redirection event (col. 4, lines 50-54);

detecting the redirection event at the desktop system (col. 14, lines 39-49);

transmitting a redirection message from the desktop system to the e-mail storage/retrieval system (col. 8, lines 36-43); and

continuously redirecting the data items from the e-mail storage/retrieval system to the mobile data communication device (col. 6, lines 25-30).

However, Sharp fails to disclose running the e-mail storage/retrieval system at a server, and providing a user profile at the server wherein the user profile associates the desktop system with the mobile data communication device. Nonetheless, running an e-mail storage/retrieval system in an e-mail forwarding system at a server is well known, as evidenced by Woltz. In a similar art, Woltz discloses an e-mail forwarding system wherein messages received at a server ("host computer 34") are forwarded to mobile communications devices (28, 30) according to information stored in a user profile (col. 3, lines 30-40; col. 4, lines 26-35), and wherein the user profile associates a user's desktop computer (48) with the mobile communication device (col. 3, lines 50-58). Given the teaching of Woltz, a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of forwarding messages directly from the server computer, as disclosed by Woltz, rather than from the desktop computer, as disclosed by Sharp,

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in order to decrease network traffic. Therefore, it would have been obvious to forward messages directly from the server, as taught by Woltz, in the e-mail forwarding system taught by Sharp.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 4-16, 22, 25, 26, and 51-57 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley Edelman whose telephone number is (703) 306-3041. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess, can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7201.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-3900.

BE

June 26, 2000


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